

ANNUAL REPORT 1951

DRAWER 13A

FORD'S THEATRE

NO. 1000 OFF. 1000

The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Ford's Theatre Orchestra and Music

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

WILLIAMS BOOK STORE

81-87 WASHINGTON STREET
BOSTON, MASS.

November 19, 1940

Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

We have just acquired a very rare piece of early American sheet music which is particularly interesting inasmuch as it concerns the play which we understand Lincoln attended at the time he was assassinated:

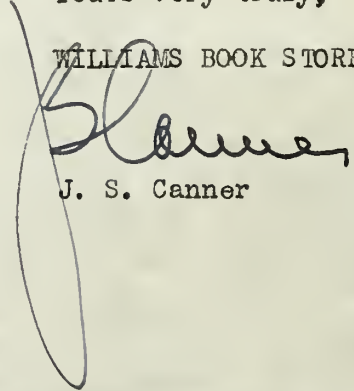
"Our American Cousin Polka" Respectfully inscribed to
Messrs. Wheatly and Clarke...composed by the late
Charles Jarvis. Philadelphia, Lee & Walker.

The piece is complete having three leaves on six pages. It is standard quarto music size with a chromolithographed cover. This composition was copyrighted in 1858.

We have this priced modestly we believe at \$4.50 and would gladly submit it subject to approval.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAMS BOOK STORE


J. S. Canner

jsc;pb

November 22, 1940

Mr. J. S. Canner
Williams Book Store
87-27 Washington St.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Canner:

Thanks for calling to our attention the interesting piece of music which you have discovered, but it is so indirect with relation to Abraham Lincoln that I do not think we wish to acquire it.

We do have a very large collection of Lincoln music where Lincoln is either mentioned or the music dedicated to him but "Our American Cousin Polka" would hardly fall in with this classification.

Thank you nevertheless for calling it to our attention.

Yours very truly,

LAW:ES

Director

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 2, 1944.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

A copy of the brochure on the Lincoln bronze statues which you sent us was received today. We are very much interested in the statues of Lincoln and this is exactly what we needed. Your presentation of this work to the Lincoln Museum is deeply appreciated.

Your information concerning the Ford's Theatre Orchestra is also appreciated. We had not known that Ruben Withers or Taltadullo were in the orchestra. George Arth, soloist mentioned on the revised playbill, (Double Bass Viol); William Musgrine (Violin Cello), and possibly Henry B. Phillips were members of the orchestra. I have seen references that Phillips was the assistant to Withers and in another place he is referred to as an actor.

In the issue of Lincoln Lore for June 5, 1944, (No. 791), it was stated that information concerning Lincoln paintings would be welcomed. Recently we have had occasion to secure information on the Cogswell and Thorp paintings, which we are sending attached to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley W. McClure
Stanley W. McClure,
Chief, National Memorials
& Historic Sites Division.

SWM/mfc

2 March 1948

43 - Cedar Lane

Ossining, N.Y.

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
 Lincoln National Life
 Foundation.
 Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren; -

I on Feb. 1946 at the Ford's Theater, where you were the principal speaker, I brought to your attention the Jacobus Stainer, violin which was my fathers for many years prior to his death, at 86, in Dec. 1945.

I also showed you a sworn affidavit of ownership by a Mr. Byington, former deputy commissioner of pensions, U.S. Govt., through his father also a doctor, to the original owner in this country, whose wife then was a singer of note with the Metropolitan Opera, and who bought said violin in Paris for her husband, an accomplished violinist, who became 1st violinist of the orchestra at Ford's Theater the night of April 14, 1865, when President Lincoln was shot, and who asserted this same violin was the same used by him the night the President was shot.

In speaking to you, you gave me your card and said to write you about it.

As executor of my father's estate with my brother I was ready in June to settle in full, when my brother died suddenly and matters were then delayed until last Dec. 1947 when settle^{ment} was finally made in full.

If I were in any way a wealthy man I would be more than willing to donate this violin to an organization that would keep it in perpetuation as a museum piece, altho' it was always said by my father that "fine violins should be played forever to keep them fine", he was a connoisseur and lover of good violins, and a fairly good player himself.

If you have any suggestions to make I would be glad to hear from you.

Possibly you could interest some of our families of great wealth in its purchase for the Lincoln Museum.

I can arrange for it to be seen within a few days notice as I keep it in a safety deposit vault at present.

Trusting to hear from you soon and thanking you for any consideration you give the subject, I am,

Very truly

Maj. W. E. Palmer.

March 18, 1948

Major W. E. Palmer
43 Cedar Lane
Ossining, New York

My dear Major:

Thank you very much for your very informative letter of March 2 relating to your father's violin.

Inasmuch as I am not very well acquainted with any of the museums which specialize in musical instruments I do not think I could help you very much. This item, of course, should be preserved and I expect the Ford's Theatre Museum is the place for it. I am quite sure we would not be able to acquire it here at our Foundation. Thank you nevertheless for calling it to our attention.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JM
L.A. Warren

Director



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<http://archive.org/details/assassinationxxx00linc>

